the block level. Banks have also been advised to create separate "Recovery Cell" for a cluster of nearby branches for continuous and effective supervision and recovery where overdues exceeds 50% of demand and agricultural advances are sizeable. Separate guidelines have also been issued to banks for providing relief measures/relaxations to various categories of borrowers affected by natural calamities such as drought, floods, etc., which include rescheduling/ rephasing of loans, extension of repayment period, etc. Banks have been advised to observe one day in a week as non-business working day for their rural branches and branch managers have to ensure that harvesting seasons are effectively used for recovery of dues. The prudential norms for income recognition and provisioning introduced recently would induce the banks to go in for quality advances and improve follow-up of their advances.

Hindi Typewriter in the Ministry of Finance

†3269: SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such Departments under the Ministry of Finance which don't have a single Hindi typewriter so far;

(b) the reasons for not purchasing the Hindi typewriter there so far and the Officers responsible for such kind of negligence; and

(c) the action taken to ensure the compliance of targets fixed for the purchase of Hindi typewriter by the Department of Official language in its annual Hindi programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATEL): (a) Nil, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All the Departments/Divisions of this Ministry have been instructed to purchase bilingual Electronic typewriters/Computers as per the targets fixed by the Department of Official Language.

Harassment by Central Excise in Mumbai

3270. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that preventive teams of Central Excise Department are not allowed to visit factories without proper authorisation from higher authorities;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that preventive teams of Central Excise Departments in Thane- Belapur belt of Mumbai are unauthorisedly visiting foctories and harassing the onwers; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Preventive teams comprising Superintendent and Inspectors are authorised by law to visit factories for checking, except that in case of Small Scale factory, visit can be done only with prior authorisation from an officer not below the rank of an Asistant Commissioner of Central Excise.

(b) No such complaint of such harassment has been received from the owners of the factories from this area.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of used cars and Excise on Indigenously Manufactured cars

†3271. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to lift ban on large scale import of used cars from other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the time by when the said decision would be taken and the rate of customs duty proposed to be imposed;

(c) whether Government propose to decrease the excise duty on indigenously manufactured cars in order to decrease the prices of Indian Cars in this situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Import of cars including used cars are presently restricted under the Export and Import Policy. As per India's

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.